

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4004

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 853

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0530

E.O. 652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, SF

SUBJ: TRANSKEIAN INDEPENDENCE: ONE STEP CLOSER

REF: DURBAN 300

1. PM VORSTER ANNOUNCED SEPT 10 THAT GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE THAT TRANSKEI SHOULD HAVE INDEPENDENCE WITHIN FIVE YEARS AND OUTLINED MECHANISMS TO DEAL WITH PREPARATORY WORK FOR HAND-OVER. VORSTER SPOKE IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION POSED BY OWN NATIONALIST PARTY MP IN WHAT APPARENTLY WAS GOVT-STAGED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MAJOR (PM CALLED IT "AUGUST AND HISTORIC STEP") STATEMENT ON INDEPENDENCE ISSUE. VORSTER AND OTHER CABINET MINISTERS HAVE BEEN CONFERRING FOR PAST WEEK WITH TRANSKEI'S CHIEF MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA.

2. VORSTER STATED THAT "WORKS COMMITTEE" WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS RELATING TO TRANSFER OF POWER. COMMITTEE WILL BE COMPOSED OF FOUR SAG APPOINTEES AND THREE TRANSKEIAN REPRESENTATIVES. A JOINT CABINET COMMITTEE
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COMPOSED OF VORSTER, MINBANTU ADMINISTRATION M.C. BOTHA,

MATANZIMA AND ONE OTHER TRANSKEIAN CABINET MINISTER WILL REVIEW DECISIONS OF WORKS COMMITTEE AND OVERSEE FORMULATION NEW TRANSKEI CONSTITUTION AND TRANSKEIAN- SA TREATIES.

3. PM DUCKED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON MORE SENSITIVE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH INDEPENDENCE. HE CLAIMS THAT ISSUES OF TRANSKEI'S NATIONAL DEFENSE (MATANZIMA WANTS HIS OWN ARMY) AND WHETHER ADDITIONAL WHITE TOWNS, PARTICULARLY PORT ST. JOHNS, WILL BE TURNED OVER TO TRANSKEIAN AUTHORITIES ARE STILL "UNDER STUDY."

4. COMMENT: SAG IS OF COURSE PLEASED BY MATANZIMA'S PUSH FOR INDEPENDENCE WHICH SERVES TO BOLSTER NATIONALISTS' SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT. THOUGH VORSTER DID NOT SPECIFICALLY COMMENT ON ISSUE, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT GOVT AMENABLE TO SPEEDING TRANSKEI TURNOVER WELL BEFORE FIVE YEARS ELAPSE AND PROBABLY WITHIN TWO-YEAR DEADLINE MATANZIMA HAS RECENTLY SUGGESTED (REFTEL).
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